

Parents & Friends Tournament at the 2026 VA Scholastic Championships

Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8, 2026 – with Blitz on Friday March 6th
At Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology in Alexandria, VA

What: *Parents & Friends (P&F) Tournament at the VA Scholastic Championships.* There's also a Blitz Tournament on Friday night for Parents & Friends.

- **New for 2026:** This year in the P&F BLITZ tournament there will be awards for the “Top Parent-Child” Team! A Parent-Child team is defined as a parent playing in the P&F tournament who has at least one child playing in the K-6, 7-12, or College Blitz Tournaments. The award recognizes the top 3 Parent-Child Teams by adding the parent's blitz score to the blitz score of their highest-finishing child in the scholastic or the college sections.

When: Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8, 2026, with Round 1 on Saturday at 12:45 PM (this is 15 minutes after the start of Round 2 in the Scholastic sections). Blitz is on Friday evening at 6:30 PM.

Where: Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Tech, 6560 Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. ***Please DO NOT call the school for information about the chess tournament.***

Hotels: The Virginia Chess Federation is developing lodging options with several hotels near the school. The properties represent a range of selections and costs. See www.vachess.org for the options available. ***All hotel deals will have a “cut off”; reservations made after the cut-off date may no longer be eligible to get the “Chess Rate” for lodging.***

Event Format: **4 Rounds** using the Swiss System. This is NOT an elimination tournament! The Blitz Tournament will have 3 or 4 rounds of play (2 games per round), depending on the number of entries in the Blitz event.

Entry Fees and Registration: Select the “Register Now” button below to register for Parents & Friends!

- **P&F Main Event Entry Fees: \$30 through February 28th;** increases to \$35 on March 1st and onsite. Entry onsite permitted on Friday March 7th and Saturday March 8th until 12 noon. Players who register after 12 noon on Saturday might not be paired until Round 2.
- **P&F Blitz Entry Fees: \$20 through February 28th;** increases to \$30 on March 1st and onsite.
- **Registration:** On-line [at this link](#) or www.vachess.org.
- **One half-point Bye** is available in any of the 4 rounds of the main P&F tournament. No Byes allowed in Blitz.

Register NOW

Sections of Play: All players compete in one section in both the main and blitz P&F tournaments.

Event Schedule for the P&F Events:

- **Registration Onsite:** 4-9 pm on Friday and 9 am to noon on Saturday. Blitz players must be registered by 6 PM to play in Round 1 at 6:30.
- **Main P&F Tournament Round Times:**
 - **Saturday:** Rounds 1 and 2 at 12:45 pm and 4:45 pm.
 - **Sunday:** Rounds 3 and 4 at 9:45 am and 1:45 pm.
- **Blitz Tournament Round Times:** Round 1 at 6:30 PM

Time Controls: All players' clocks will be set each round using the time controls listed here.

- **Main P&F Tournament:**
 - Round 1: Game-45 + 5 seconds of time increment. This means each player has a total of 45 minutes to complete all moves in each game, plus each player gets an additional 5 seconds after completing each move.

- Rounds 2-4: Game-60 + 5 seconds of time increment.
- **Blitz P&F Tournament:** All games use a time control of Game-5, delay 0. You play two games each round. We will play 3 or 4 rounds, depending on the number of entries.

Ratings Used: Players will be paired using the higher of their US Chess over-the-board and online regular ratings found in the US Chess Rating Supplement for March 2026 (to be published by the US Chess Federation on or after Feb 21, 2025). Established ratings have priority over provisional ratings. Ratings from other systems such as FIDE or from another country will be considered, especially when a player has no US Chess rating. Ratings from platforms such as Chess.com, Chesskid.com, Lichess.com, and ICC are not used. The Chief TD makes the final decisions about all players' ratings used in the tournament.

Awards: All awards are gift certificates to the onsite Chess Book & Equipment Store. There are no cash awards. Gift certificates must be redeemed onsite and cannot be exchanged for cash. Trophies/Plaques to Top 3 Parent-Child Teams.

Player Eligibility:

- The Parents & Friends event is ***not open to players eligible to compete in the College or Scholastic sections*** of the main tournament. You do not need to have a child playing in the main tournament to participate in our P&F events!
- A current US Chess Federation membership is required for all participants. Renew your US Chess membership or become a new US Chess member through the VA Chess Federation at www.vachess.org and select the "Join/Renew US Chess" tab on the left side of the screen. Joining the US Chess Federation through the VA Chess Federation saves you a little money.